

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 NEA-10 AF-10 IO-14 DRC-01 EUR-25

DLOS-06 ACDA-19 /175 W

----- 127489

R 180644Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2800

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

CINCPAC

CINCPACREP AUST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1603

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN FONMIN WILLESEE'S COMMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 053211; B) JAKARTA 3256

1. WILLESEE'S REMARKS IN PARA 1(A) OF REF B WERE AT PRESS
CONFERENCE MARCH 14 IN JAKARTA. DFA HAS PROVIDED US WITH TEXT OF
Q AND A ON DIEGO GARCIA, AS FOLLOWS:

QTE Q. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE STRENGTHENING OF DIEGO
GARCIA BY THE AMERICANS, IF IT HAPPENS? AS A MILITARY BASE?

QTE A. I DON'T THINK IT IS BEING STRENGTHENED AS A MILITARY BASE.
I THINK IT IS THE FACILITIES. A BASE, YOU KNOW, CAN BE A VERY BIG
THING WITH A LOT OF ARMED PEOPLE THERE. WE'VE SUBSCRIBED TO BOTH
THE ASEAN CONCEPT OF FRIENDSHIP AND NEUTRALITY IN THIS AREA AND
WE HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO THE SRI LANKAN INITIATIVES ON THE INDIAN
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OCEAN AND INDEED WE ARE ON THE COMMITTEE THAT IS TRYING TO DO

SOMETHING ABOUT THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE. I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE GOT OUT OF PROPORTION.

QTE BUT WHAT YOU HAVE SAID IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND AS THE RUSSIANS SAID THE OTHER DAY THEY REGARD IT, AFTER THEY LEFT INDONESIA (SIC), THEY REGARD IT AS AN OPEN OCEAN WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED TO TRAVEL. THE AMERICANS HAVE SHIPS, THE FRENCH HAVE SHIPS, THE BRITISH HAVE SHIPS, A LOT OF NAVIES OF THE WORLD ARE THERE. WE DON'T SEE EITHER THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WARSHIPS OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES TENDING TOWARDS WHAT WE WANT TO SEE AND BECAUSE OF THAT WE REGRET THAT IT IS TAKING PLACE. END QTE.

2. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF TEXT OF ABOVE Q AND A, APPEARS TO US THAT JAKARTA PRESS PUT THINGS CONSIDERABLY STRONGER THAN WILLESEE INTENDED THEM IN REMARKS HE ACTUALLY MADE AT PRESS CONFERENCE. QUESTION AND ANSWER ON INDIAN OCEAN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED QUESTION ON ANZUS, TO WHICH WILLESEE REPLIED, DEFENDING IT POLITELY BUT UNEQUIVOCALLY.

DFA (LAVETT, ASST SEC, SOUTH EAST ASIA BRANCH)
REVIEWED WILLESEE VISIT TO JAKARTA WITH EMBOFF MAR 18. BULK OF CONVERSATIONS WILLESEE HAD IN JAKARTA TURNED ON AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO INDONESIA, INTERNAL SITUATION IN INDONESIA, STATUS OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES, ETC. AS WILLESEE STATED IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ON DIEGO GARCIA, (SEE ABOVE), MATTER SHOULD BE KEPT IN PROPORTION. WILLESEE HAS ESSENTIALLY DONE NO MORE THAN REPEAT MAIN THEME OF HIS PRESS STATEMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA ISSUED IN CANBERRA FEB 11.
GREEN

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